

Testimony of Bruce Rich
Vice President Connecticut Fly-Fisherman's Association

In Support of **H.B. No. 5820**, AN ACT CONSERVING NATURAL VEGETATION
NEAR WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES

Submitted to the Environment Committee February 23, 2009

I support this bill because it protects the quality of the state's water bodies and drinking water, mitigates the risks of flooding, and provides ecosystem benefits such as habitat protection for game fish. As a board member of the Connecticut Fly-Fisherman's Association, I believe I speak on behalf of our 300+ members by supporting this bill. Many of our state's water bodies have undergone dramatic improvement in recent years, but much more needs to be done to correct past abuses and prevent future degradation. This bill is a step in the right direction.